

B1

--As a result modern communications standards and systems have to accommodate communications between systems that have disparate technology (i.e. communicate at different speeds). In addition, it would be preferable to address the communications issues between these disparate technologies in an automated way without the need for human intervention such as toggling or modifying switch settings. Finally, it is preferable that this function be handled at the lowest possible level of the communications process. For example, using the Open System Interconnect (OSI) reference model layers of physical layer, data link layer, network layer, transport layer, session layer, presentation layer and applications layer. It would be preferable to place the functionality for addressing these disparate technologies at the lowest possible layer, such as the physical layer. Placing the functionality at this layer would open the higher layers to handling other functions and thereby improve the overall performance of the system.--

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Replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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B2

--The two link partners then attempt to make a link as shown in 506. If the link is successful as shown at 508, the link is established as shown in 512 and there is an end to the auto-negotiation process as shown in 514. When the link is established at 512, the link partners are able to communicate with each other, using the appropriate communication parameters. However, even after the link has been established, the link can still go down or fail as shown at 516. Should this happen, the system would re-advertise the full set of capabilities as shown by the loop back at 526. Should the link fail when attempting to establish communications as shown at 510, a link fail counter is increased by one as shown